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Remarks/Arguments

Claims 1 and 4 have been amended. Claims 1-6 are pending. Applicants have amended the claims to clarify the claim language. No new matter has been added to the prosecution of this application. For at least the reasons stated below, Applicants assert that the claims are now in condition for allowance.

1.   The Examiner has not shown that Weinberg teaches any of the elements in the claims.

Claims 1-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Weinberg (US Patent #6,144,962). Specifically, the Examiner states for claim 1 that Weinberg teaches elements (a)[1] through (d) in the following locations: Fig. 17; Fig. 20; Col 3 L. 9-63; Col 27 L. 1-13; and Col 27 L. 57 to Col 28 L. 65. The Examiner also states that for claim 1 Weinberg teaches elements (e) and (f) in the following locations: Fig. 17; Col 1 L. 34-40; and Col 27 L. 57 to Col 28 L. 65.

In Applicants' prior Response, each of the cited portions of Weinberg were analyzed against each of the clauses of the claims. The Applicants walked through the clauses step-by-step to highlight how Weinberg does not teach even a single element found in claim 1. On pages 6 through 8 of the Office Action, the Examiner responded to Applicants' arguments. But he did not address any of Applicants' assertions that none of clauses (a) through (f) are taught or suggested by the Weinberg disclosure.

Rather than once again walking through each clause and showing how Weinberg fails to teach them, this time Applicants will simplify the analysis by describing the claimed

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[1]   For ease of discussion purposes only, the separate elements in the claims are referred to here with letters, where the first element is clause (a), the second element is clause (b), etc. Per the Examiner's usage on page 3 of the Office Action, the step of choosing and the step of querying are together referred to as clause (a).

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invention in more holistic terms. Applicants also maintain their arguments from the first

Response since those arguments have not been addressed by the Examiner.

The preamble of claim 1 (as well as the specification) gives a particular meaning to

the phase "generic descriptions". As clarified by the present amendment, the preamble

indicates that the invention is part of the component discovery phase of system design for

an engineer. In the first part of system design, an engineer creates a block diagram or

other representation of the desired system. The system's design is made up of a series of

elemental "generic descriptions" and is the blueprint for the desired end product. If the

system design is in the form of a block diagram, the generic descriptions are blocks visually

drawn on the block diagram. These generic descriptions "stand in place of and represent the

components or subsystems" that make up the design of the system.

To move from a block diagram or other abstract representation of the desired

system, the engineer must decide which components (or subsystems) can be used to build

the end product. The problem is that there are more than two million components and

subsystems available to the engineer. In the prior art, an engineer used her own skills to

choose components she thought would work to build the blueprint. However, this was a

difficult game of trial and error since the components had to work with one another and had

to fulfill certain system constraints (such as total price, for example).

The Applicants' invention in claim 1 systematically chooses components that appear

to be the best candidates for the blocks (i.e., "generic descriptions") in the block diagram or

other system design. To do this, the inventive method inspects two of the blocks ("generic

descriptions") from the block diagram ("system design"). The invention retrieves candidate

lists from the database of components/subsystems. One candidate list is the components

that might work for the first block; and a second candidate list is the components that might

work for the second block. This is the activity of claim 1 from clauses (a) through (d).

Clause (e) tests combinations of candidates from the two lists to verify which ones pass the system constraints imposed on the final product. For example, if the first candidate list has 3 possible components (X, Y and Z) and the second candidate list has 2 possible components (S and T), then combinations like X+S, X+T, Y+S, Y+T, Z+S and Z+T are tested. Based on the results of these combination tests, clause (f) requires that one or more of the tested combinations are picked as a solution set.

As shown in the prior Response, Weinberg does not teach any of the steps of claim 1. Weinberg does not teach a system design of which an engineer tests during a component discovery phase. Weinberg does not teach a method of choosing components that can be used to build a system based on the blueprint of generic descriptions. Weinberg does not teach taking two of the blocks (generic descriptions) in the blueprint and retrieving from a database sets of components that might be used for the generic descriptions. Weinberg does not teach the step of testing the combinations of components from the two candidate sets in order to find out which components best match certain system requirements. Weinberg does not teach choosing one or more combinations as solutions sets.

The Weinberg invention teaches a way to visualize web sites as well as other hierarchical structures. A web site is scanned so that a site map can be graphically displayed of the URLS and links that make up the web site. Filters may be used to find and fix common web site problems. The invention can analyze the web site in various ways. For argument's sake, even if Weinberg's graphical representation of a web site is considered like a system design, such a representation does not have a series of generic descriptions (i.e., blocks) for which an engineer uses during a component discovery phase.

By its very purpose, Weinberg cannot teach the elements of the claims. This is because Weinberg takes an _existing_ web site and creates a mapping of it. Weinberg

visualizes the components that are already in use as components of the web site. In Weinberg, the components exist and are already successfully interconnected.

In contrast, Applicants' invention assists the engineer to build a system when the components are as yet unknown. Since the components exist in Weinberg, Weinberg does not teach how to take two of the building blocks from the blueprint and test combinations of components to tell which combinations might work well in building the system.

The various sections cited by the Examiner do not deal at all with the elements of the claims. Figure 17 does not teach any of the elements of Applicants' invention as it is a flowchart for a filtering process. Figure 20 does not teach any of the elements of Applicants' invention as it is a flowchart for processing a log file of the activity level for links in a web site.

Column 1, lines 34-50 does not teach any of the elements of Applicants' invention as it discusses how webmasters must repair broken links in a web site. Column 3, lines 9-63 does not teach any of the elements of Applicants' invention as it describes a log file for a web site that is used to generate usage data. This portion of Weinberg also discusses the scanning of a web site to map the elements that exist as part of the web site.

Column 27, lines 1-13 does not teach any of the elements of Applicants' invention as it discusses a filtered map for a web site where URLs are shown that are not OK. Column 27, line 57 to column 28 line 65 does not teach any of the elements of Applicants' invention as it is a discussion of log files maintained for a web site. The log file can be analyzed to generate usage activity.

None of this information from Weinberg can be used to teach how to make or use Applicants' invention in claim 1. As the remaining claims either depend from claim 1 or at least have similar elements as claim 1, Weinberg does not teach those claims as well.
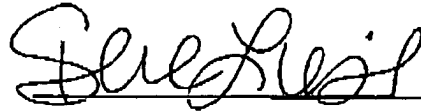
2.   Summary

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The Weinberg reference does not teach each of the limitations of the claims and

therefore Applicants submit that all pending claims are allowable over the art of record and

respectfully request that a Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. In the event a

telephone conversation would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner

may reach the undersigned at 612-607-7508. If any fees are due in connection with the

filing of this paper, then the Commissioner is authorized to charge such fees including fees

for any extension of time, to Deposit Account No. 50-1901 (Docket # 20528-13).

Respectfully submitted,

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	Attorney Docket No. 20528-13

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